Rafael Nadal, a professional Spanish tennis player once said, “The only way of finding a solution is to fight back, to move, to run, and to control that pressure.”

Without his passion and determination, Nadal would not have gotten the opportunity to compete with Roger Federer for the Champion’s title in the Grand Slams, and eventually, beating the former World Number one. Determination and passion is what drives us to push harder to achieve our dreams, and this I believe.

It was not too long ago that I took part in the selections for school team players who will be competing in the upcoming interschool tennis tournament. It was definitely not an easy task, considering that there are quite a number of strong players.

I did not perform well and I played terribly in the first match, ending the game within an hour with the score of 3-6. Later on I lost the second match with the exact same disappointing score. Reality woke me up when I realized that out of the five matches, I have lost twice and the only way to clinch a spot in the school in team is to win the next three matches consecutively. I was disheartened and I felt the burden weigh down my shoulders. I knew giving up is not the right way dealing with failure, however, at that point of time; I could not help but to hesitate.

And yet, I felt something stronger, the inner fire, and the inner passion.

I have to learn from my mistakes, to move on, and to train even harder no matter how tough it is. In the following matches, I played defensive games, trying my best to make minimal mistakes rather than attempting winner shots, which might in turn cause me to end up losing the point.

And indeed, I played much better and got myself a position in the school team. Now that I look back, I am glad that I did not let my dream slowly fade away when everything seemed to be against me. Winning the match is important, but more importantly, I feel whole, connected and inspired, because I know well enough that I was determined and passionate about what I want and that is why, I can make it to be part of the school team.

Everyone in this world has a dream, a vision in their life that urges them to move forward. Though sometimes we may hesitate to keep going to pursue our dreams and even doubt ourselves, somewhere from our soul cries out hard to be listened and to be acted upon.

Even if I was once defeated, that doesn’t spell the end of everything.

Now that I become stronger, I will continue to push myself to achieve greater heights.

For determination and passion is the key to success, and this I believe.